

# Arroyo Burro Watershed Action Plan

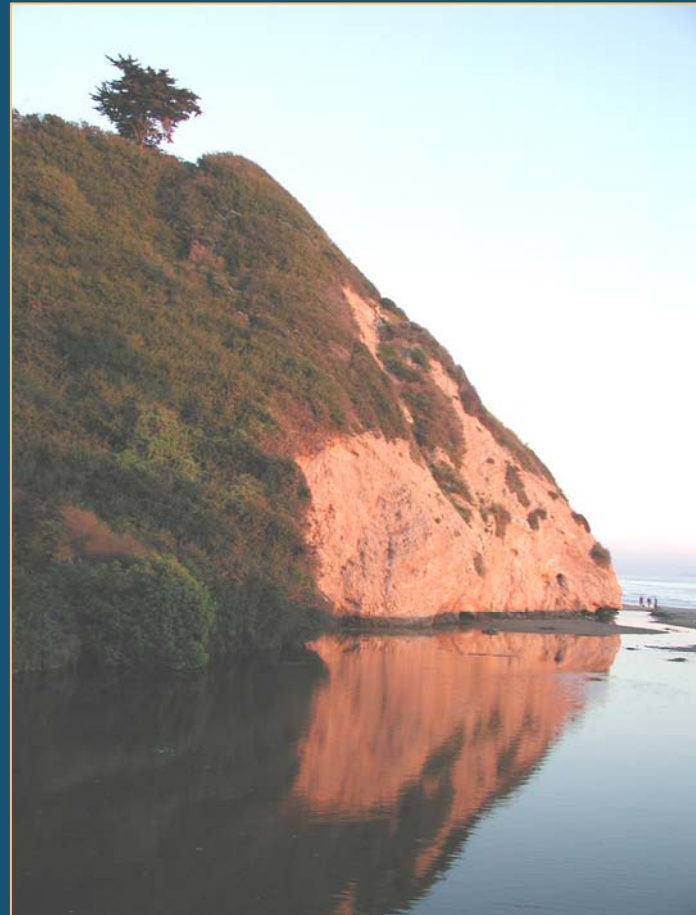


Community Forum

November 10, 2004

# Watershed Action Plans

- Provide direction for short and long range actions
- Multi-Resource  
Multi-Objective  
Multi-Jurisdictional
- Integrate water quality, urban land use needs, biological resources, recreation, and community interests



# Role of the Community in Creation of Watershed Action Plans

- Voluntary, not regulatory
- Establish community priorities and concerns
- Contribute to goals for watershed improvement
- Help balance multiple resources and objectives
- Focus community awareness and action for cleaner water



# Tonight's Forum

## We would like to know:

- What are your priorities?
- What would you like to know more about?
- Can you help us?
- How would you like to be involved?





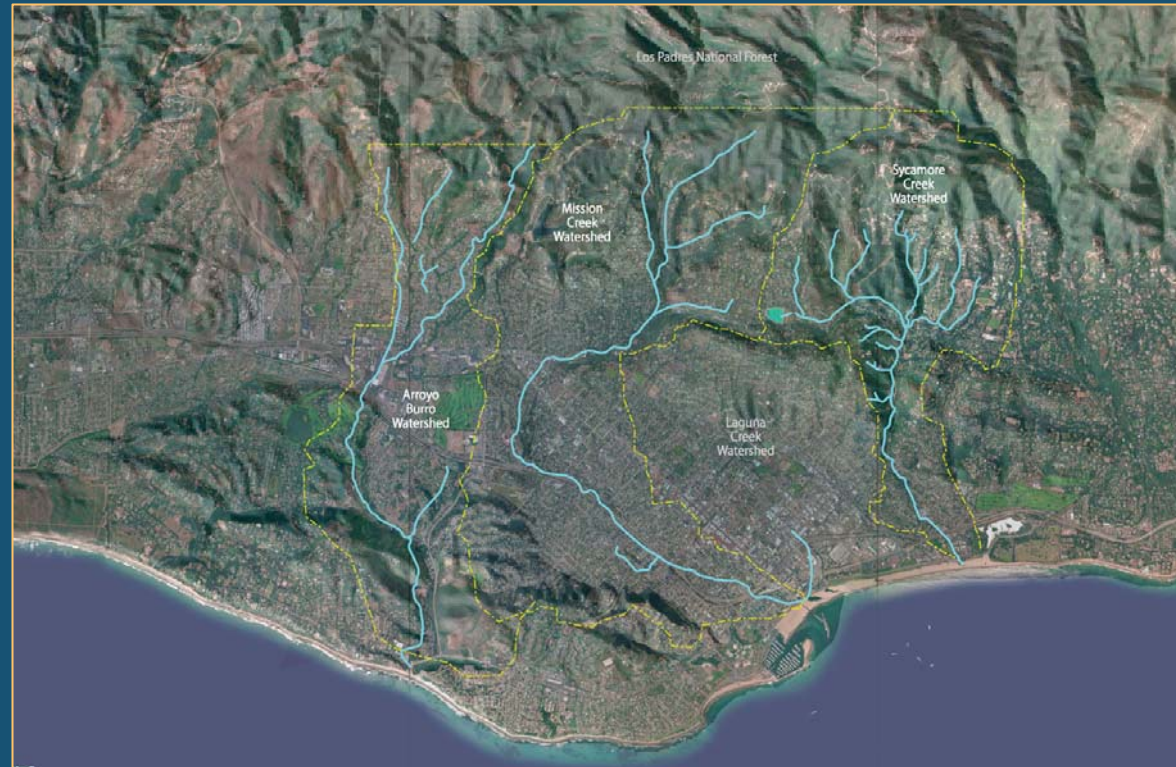
# What is a Watershed?

**Where we live, work  
and play**

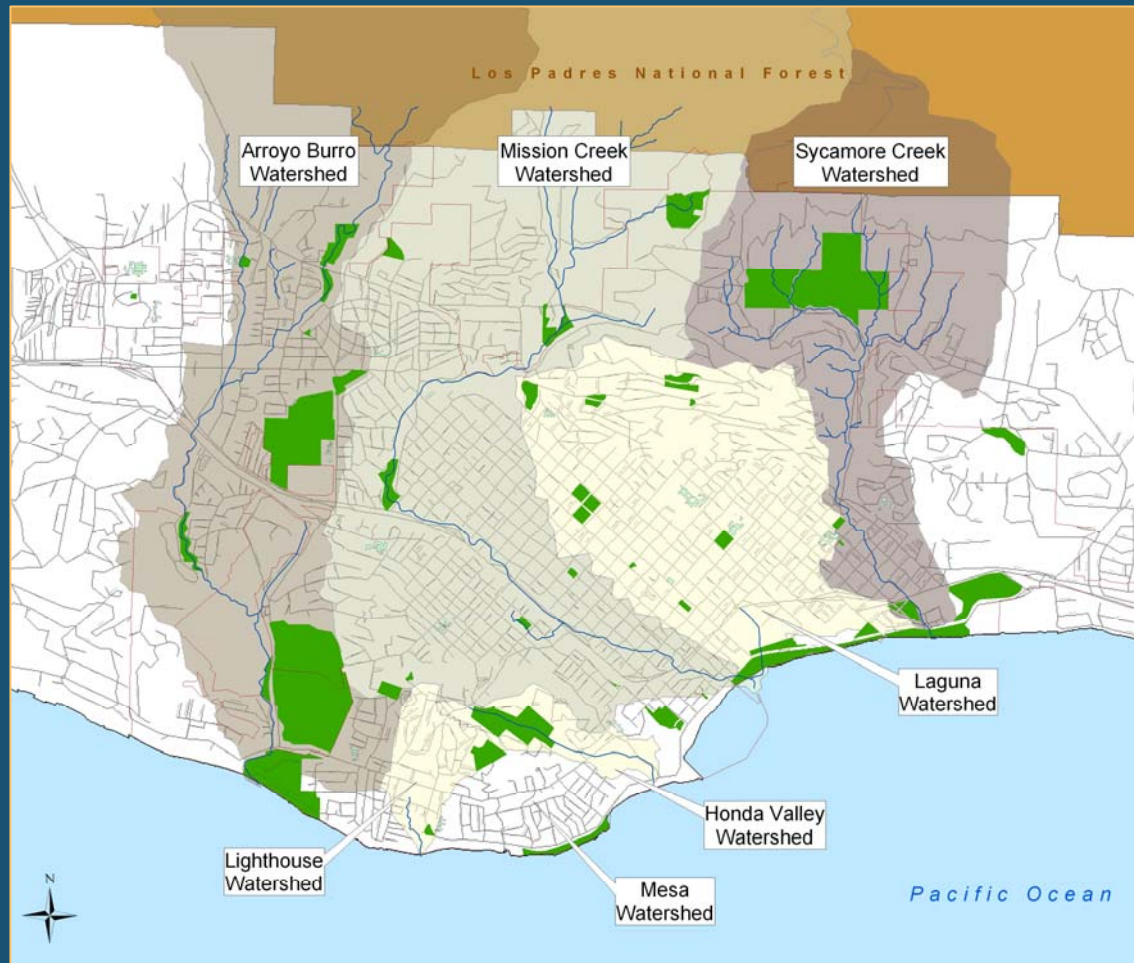
**Provides habitat for  
wildlife**

**Collects fresh water**

**Drains to creeks and  
ocean**

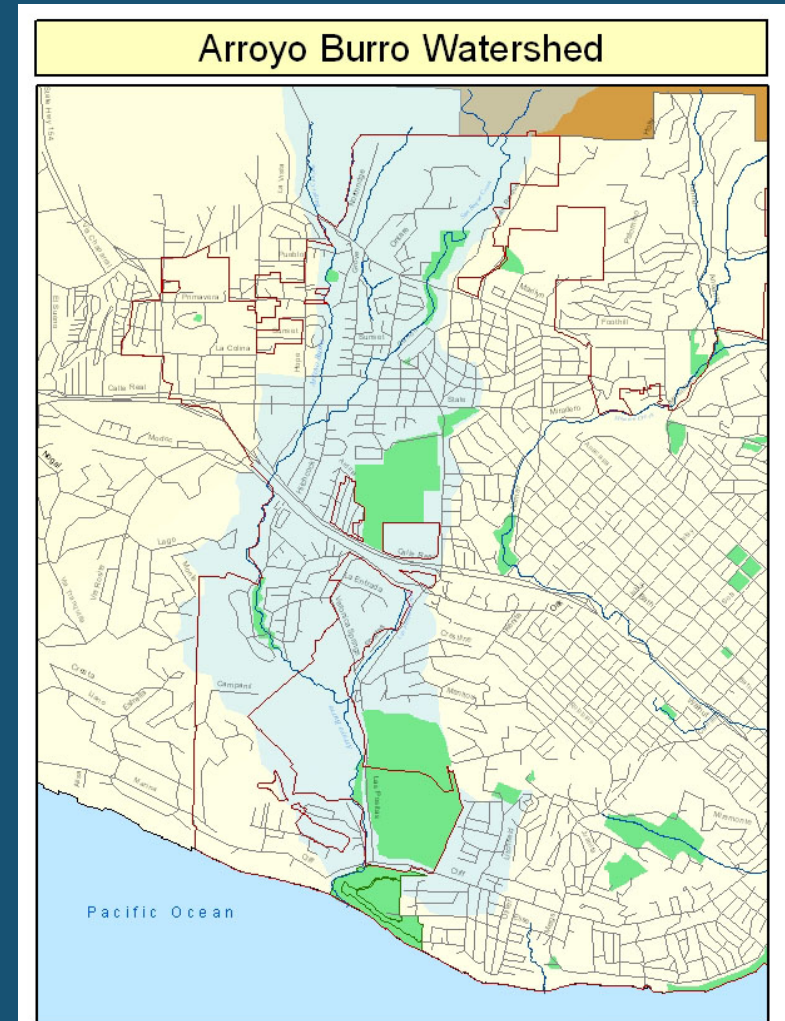


# Santa Barbara's Watersheds



# Arroyo Burro Watershed Characteristics

- 6,311 acres with headwaters in Los Padres National Forest
- 50% urban City/County
- 11 miles of creeks  
Arroyo Burro, San Roque, Las Positas
- Land Uses
  - 43% residential
  - 11% commercial/office
  - 38% open space/parks
- Upper and lower watershed less developed, provide wildlife and riparian habitat





# Natural Factors to Consider

- Steep slopes
- Heavy winter rains, flooding, and erosion
- Dry summers and potential for fire
- Need for conservation of water resources
- Home to numerous biological resources





# Human Factors to Consider

- Water collection and distribution system
- Flood control structures, bridges, channels, pipes
- Rapid run-off patterns
- Roads and pavement
- Bank stabilization
- Homes, businesses, schools, and parks



# Current Improvements in the Arroyo Burro Watershed

- Arroyo Burro Estuary Restoration  
– July 2005, \$1 M
- Las Positas Storm Water Detention  
- Spring 2006, \$300K
- Urban Runoff Diversion at Hope  
- Summer 2005, \$500K
- Las Positas Valley Restoration  
– Currently in Design, \$125 K
- Ongoing creek cleanups, water quality monitoring, DNA study



# Benefits of Watershed Improvement

- Improved water quality
- Meet federal and state water quality standards
- Reduced flooding
- Better fire management
- More wildlife
- Reduced bank erosion
- Healthier beaches and creeks
- Improved public recreation
- Increased water resources







**Framework for Watershed Action Plans**

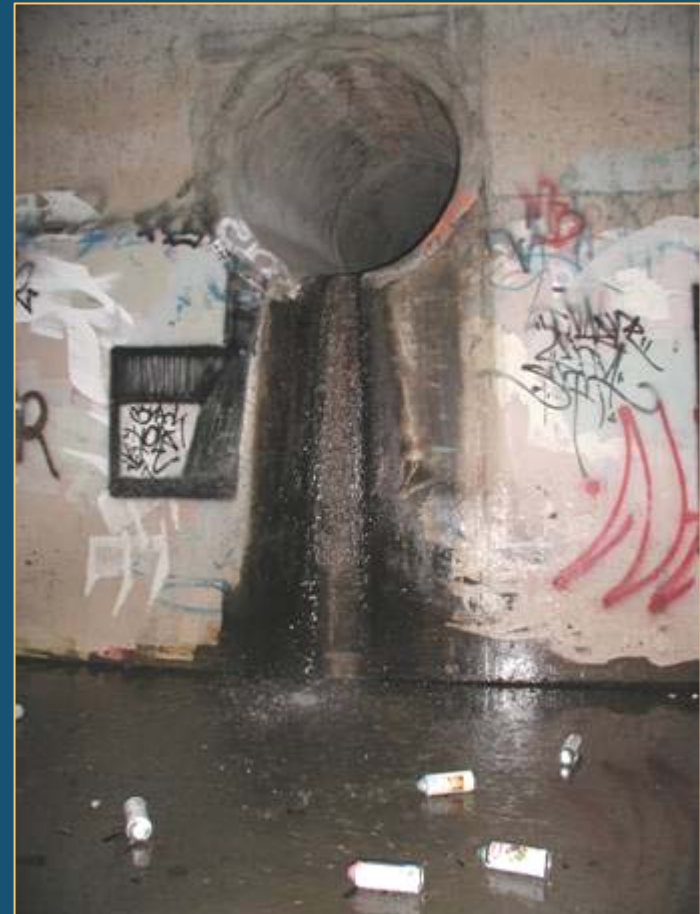
# Clean Up and Trash Removal

- **Reduce**
  - Litter from storm drains
  - Green waste
  - Illegal dumping
  - Human use
- **Improve**
  - Creek aesthetics
  - Aquatic habitat
  - Safety and health



# Improved Water Quality

- **Identify Pollution**
  - Bacteria
  - Pesticides
  - Heavy Metals
  - Sediment
- **Determine Sources**
  - Businesses
  - Residents
  - Public activities
  - Pets
  - Wildlife
- **Develop Solutions**





# Erosion and Sediment Control

- Natural sediment needs and processes
- Beach requirements
- Effects of bank stabilization
- Effects of increased runoff



# Habitat Enhancement

## Areas of Focus

- Land
- Creeks
- Estuary/Lagoons

## Opportunities

- Plant native vegetation
- Moderate Stream Flows
- Remove Fish Barriers

## Benefits

- Improved water quality
- Increased diversity
- Increased vitality
- Healthier environment



# Aquatic Habitat Enhancement

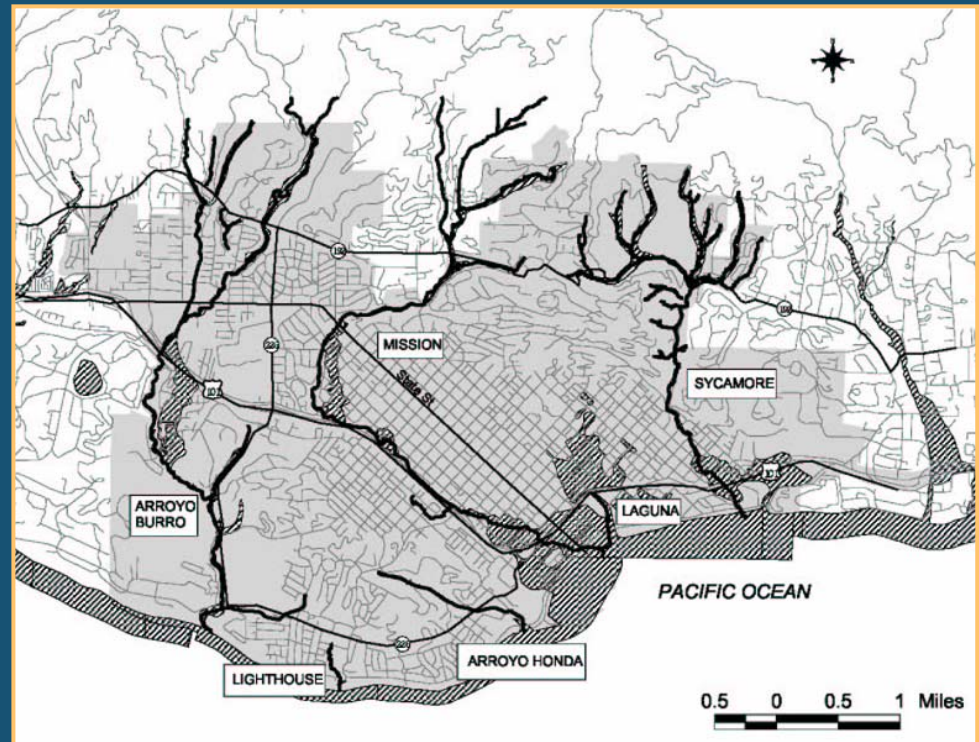
- Historic importance of Steelhead Trout
- Shade cover and water temperature
- Summer pools and winter migration
- Food chain requirements





# Water Management

- Flood control structures
- Recharge potential for groundwater basins
- Sediment transport
- Water conservation
- Increase infiltration

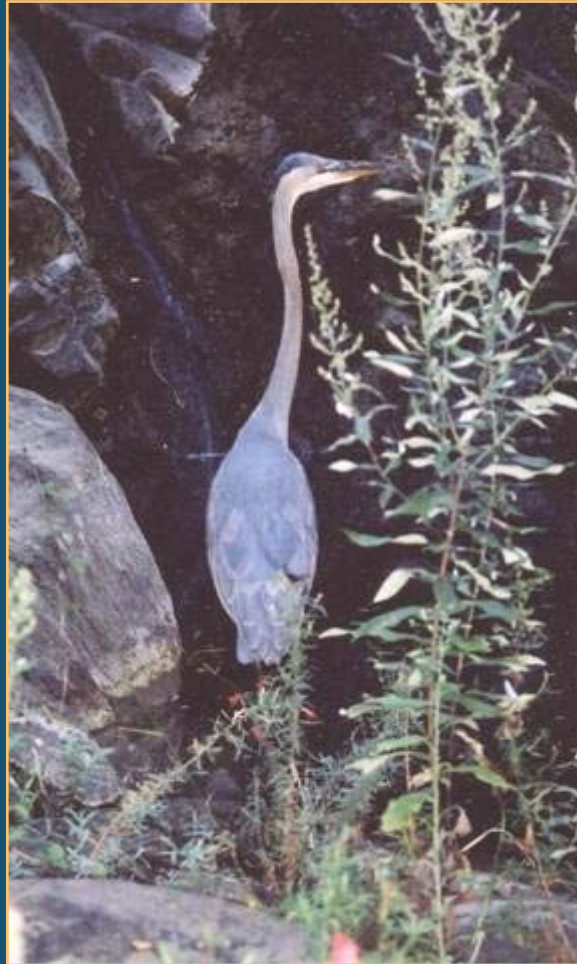


# Public Natural/Recreation Areas

- Los Padres National Forest
- Restore publicly owned areas such as the Arroyo Burro Estuary
- Provide habitat for diverse species
- Balance public recreation with habitat protection, water quality



# Next Steps





# Schedule for Action Planning

Fall 2004

Identify Community priorities  
Conduct Inventory & Analysis

Summer 2005

Establish Community Vision  
and Goals

Summer 2006

Develop Action Plan



# Opportunities for Community Forums

- Homeowner bank repair
- Native plants
- Easy opportunities to improve water quality
- Flood proofing
- Homeowner integrated pest management
- Fire management
- Watershed walking tours





**Tell us:**

**What are your priorities for watershed improvement?**

**What would you like to know more about?**

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